



## U.S. Department of Justice

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*Eastern District of Pennsylvania*

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### NEWS RELEASE

Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid announced today the unsealing of an indictment<sup>1</sup> filed on January 21, 2009, against Jose Luis Vizcarra, Richard Cake, John Becker and Courtney Cake, charging them each with conspiracy to distribute approximately 10 ½ pounds of methamphetamine and other crimes, including the distribution of, and the possession of, with intent to distribute, four separate one pound quantities of methamphetamine.

According to the indictment, members of this methamphetamine trafficking conspiracy traveled from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to San Diego, California and obtained pound quantities of methamphetamine in the San Diego, California area from Jose Luis Vizcarra. These co-conspirators, who were charged elsewhere, then caused a series of packages, each containing one or more pounds of methamphetamine, to be transported by overnight courier service to various “maildrop” addresses in the Philadelphia metropolitan area, where they were picked up by Philadelphia-based members of the conspiracy who then sold and distributed individual pound quantities of the methamphetamine to individuals in Philadelphia, including Richard Cake and Courtney Cake, for \$24,000 per pound.

The indictment alleges that John Becker, on behalf of other members of the conspiracy who were charged elsewhere, distributed four separate one pound quantities of methamphetamine to Richard Cake and Courtney Cake on four occasions in Philadelphia, from January 30, 2004 to February 10, 2004, in return for payments of \$24,000 per pound.

The indictment identifies the other Philadelphia-based co-conspirators who were charged elsewhere as John Gargano, Timothy Schaufler and Daniel McIlhenny. The indictment charges that this trio arranged the acquisition of the methamphetamine in the San Diego area through the assistance of co-conspirator Jan Lopez, also charged elsewhere, who, in turn, arranged for the acquisition of the multi-pound quantities of methamphetamine from Jose Luis Vizcarra in San Diego, and their delivery to Schaufler and McIlhenny in La Jolla, California, for FedEx and DHL overnight courier shipment to addresses in Philadelphia and other locations in the Philadelphia metropolitan area designated by Gargano. Once the packages were received in the Philadelphia

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<sup>1</sup>An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

area, Gargano provided the pound quantities of methamphetamine to John Becker, who then carried out the sale and distribution transactions with Richard Cake and Courtney Cake.

If convicted, the defendants face the following maximum penalties:

**Jose Luis Vizcarra** - Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum 10 year term of imprisonment, a multi-million dollar fine, 5 years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release.

**Richard Cake** - Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum 10 year prison term, a multi-million dollar fine, 5 years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release.

**John Becker** - Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum 10 year prison term, a multi-million dollar fine, 5 years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release.

**Courtney Cake** - Life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum 10 year prison term, a multi-million dollar fine, 5 years supervised release up to lifetime supervised release.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	YEAR OF BIRTH
JOSE LUIS VIZCARRA	INCARCERATED	1975
RICHARD CAKE	Philadelphia, PA	1957
JOHN BECKER	Wildwood, NJ	1978
COURTNEY CAKE	Philadelphia, PA	1979

The case was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”), and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph T. Labrum, III.

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